

FIRE PLAN DEVELOPMENT

This Wild Land/Urban Interface Plan has been developed by a large number of persons and agencies. It includes a hazard analysis and risk assessment of the major risks confronting the county. Specifically, the risks associated with wild land fires were analyzed and possible mitigation actions were solicited.

Bingham County is a very large county of approximately 1.3 million (1.3) acres. Bingham County is comprised of the following acreage: 350,000 is private land, 300,000 is Federal, 150,000 is State of Idaho, 80,000 is the INEEL, and other cities and municipalities comprise 20,000. The county has six incorporated cities and a population of approximately 44, 000. Farming and ranching, with some commercial enterprises, comprise the bulk of economic development. With the large amount of government-owned lands in the county, recreation is an important activity. The construction of summer homes in the mountains and remote areas of the county has become a concern with respect to the danger of wild land fires. Many of these homes have been, and are being built adjacent to or in hazardous areas containing high fuel loads.

The Bingham County/Interagency Fire Group involved the following:

- Bingham County Commissioner Wayne Brower
- Bingham County Commissioner DeVaughn Shipley
- Bingham County Commissioner Cleone Jolley
- Bingham County Emergency Management Coordinator
- Bingham County Weed Control Officer
- Bingham County LEPC
- Bureau of Land Management Fire Mitigation Officers
- Bureau of Disaster Services
- IDEAS-Idaho Education Alliance For Solutions
- Atomic City Mayor
- Atomic City Council
- Atomic City Fire Chief
- Aberdeen/Springfield Fire District Board
- Blackfoot Fire Chief
- Blackfoot Fire District Board
- Firth Fire Department
- Greenfield Subdivision Homeowners Association
- Shelley/Firth Fire District Board
- Shelley Fire Chief
- Various citizens

Public meetings were held throughout the county with the above groups. The need for a county wild land interface fire plan was presented and input was solicited from those attending. Areas at risk were identified and quantified as to degree of risk. Maps were presented and used to identify the areas of risk. Specific details of the areas were obtained from various sources to better evaluate potential mitigation initiatives.

As each area was evaluated and risks determined, a list of mitigation actions was prepared. These actions are located in section VI of this plan and summarized in Section VII.